electric utility generating units, to reduce emissions of mercury, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide, to require that all fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units operating in the United States meet new source review requirements, and to promote alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH.

S. 2637. A bill for the relief of Belinda McGregory; considered and passed.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. WYDEN):

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2639. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report on the feasibility and desirability of recovering the costs of high altitude lifesaving missions on Mount McKinley in Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT:

S. Res. 300. A resolution electing James W. Ziglar, of Mississippi, as the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 301. A resolution relative to Rule XXXIX; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 302. A resolution relative to Rule XXXIII; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 303. A resolution authorizing the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders to make certain appointments during the recess or adjournment of the present session; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 304. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Vice President for courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 305. A resolution tendering the thanks of the Senate to the President pro tempore for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 306. A resolution to commend the exemplary leadership of the Democratic Leader; submitted and read.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. Res. 307. A resolution to commend the exemplary leadership of the Majority leader; submitted and read.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 308. A resolution commending the crew members of the United States Navy destroyers of DesRon 61 for their heroism, intrepidity, and skill in action in the only naval surface engagement occurring inside Tokyo Bay during World War II; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 309. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the culpability of Hun Sen for violations of international humanitarian law after 1978 in Cambodia (the former People's Republic of Kampuchea and the State of Cambodia); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 2636. A bill to promote economically sound modernization of electric power generation capacity in the United States, to establish requirements to improve the combustion heat rate efficiency of fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, to reduce emissions of mercury, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide, to require that all fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units operating in the United States meet new source review requirements, and to promote alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass; to the Committee on Finance.

CLEAN POWER PLANT AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as we approach the close of the 105th Congress, it is time to take stock of our accomplishments, and reflect on the work that remains. When the environmental record of this Congress is tallied up, there won't be much to show. At best, we have avoided a great roll-back of environmental protections. We can't claim to have broken much new ground.

To her credit, Carol Browner and her staff at the Environmental Protection Agency have tried to push ahead in a very difficult political climate. Administrator Browner recently announced that EPA was ordering 22 Eastern states to make sharp cuts in emissions of the pollutants that result in summertime ozone pollution. A significant portion of these pollutants come from coal-fired power plants. The predictable howl from the utility companies and their lobbyists is being heard on Capitol Hill. I applaud Administrator Browner and her staff for their persistence on this important issue.

Even though this is a good step, it doesn't go far enough. Stronger, more comprehensive action is needed to finally address the whole gamut of air pollution problems that spew from power plant smoke stacks.

Taken collectively, fossil fuel-fired power plants constitute the largest source of air pollution in the United States. It is clear by now that the current Clean Air Act and its regulations are not up to the job of addressing the local, regional and global public health and environmental burdens imposed by the emissions from these plants. Congress took a big step to control air pollution with the Clean Air Act of 1970, and it did major rewrites of the Act in 1977 and 1990. Even with all this legislation on the books, most fossil fuel-fired power plants produce as much pollution as they did prior to 1970. The average fossil fuel-fired generating unit in the United States came into operation in 1964—six years before the 1970 Act. Seventy-seven percent of the fossil fuel generating units in operation in the United States began operation before the 1970 Clean Air Act was implemented, and are thus not subject to the full force of its regulations.

At the very heart of the environmental problems posed by this industry are the antiquated and inefficient combustion technologies that are used. Nothing in the Clean Air Act, or in other energy related statues, tackles this inefficiency. The average plant uses technology devised in the 1950's or before, and has a combustion efficiency of 33%. Put another way, 67% of the energy available in the fuel is wasted. When you get so little energy out of the fuel, you have to burn a lot more fuel to produce a given quantity of electricity. The more fuel you burn, the more pollution you get. Increasing efficiency is the only way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and burning less fuel will result in smaller amounts of all pollutants.

Burning all this fuel may be good for the bottom line of the companies that produce the coal, oil, and natural gas, but it imposes great environmental and health consequences on the rest of us. Many of my colleagues came to the Senate after successful business careers. I imagine that most would agree with me that any other business that was this wasteful would not survive for long.

To produce the power that our economy needs, some level of emissions is inevitable. But this inefficiency, coupled with the free ride on emissions that the pre-1970 plants get, exacts an enormous environmental cost. Consider the following power plant facts:

Every year, fossil fuel-fired power plants in the United States produced a staggering 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide, the primary ''greenhouse gas,'' the equivalent weight of 24,655 Washington Monuments.

Over 600 of these generating units produce over one million tons of carbon dioxide per year—two produce more than 9 million tons per year.

On average, coal plants emit over 2,100 pounds of carbon dioxide for every megawatt hour of electricity that is generated.

Coal-fired power plants emit at least 52 tons of mercury per year and are the leading source of mercury pollution in the United States.

Power plants emit particulate and urban ozone pollution that impair respiratory function in people with asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory ailments.

Power plant emissions result in acid deposition, which damages lakes, streams and rivers, and the plants and animals that depend on them for survival.

Technology exists that can raise power plant efficiencies to 35% to 50% above current levels. The question is how to get utilities to retire their inefficient processes and bring new, clean, and efficient ones on line. We can see a better future, but we don't have a clear path to get there.

Today, I am introducing the ''Clean Power Plant and Modernization Act of 1998'' to help us get to the other side. My goals with this legislation are to